

**In the Specification**

**Please rewrite page 3, lines 23-24 of the specification as follows:**

mixing at least ~~silica~~silicon, ~~silicon nitride-carbide~~ and a pore former;

Please amend Table 1-1 on page 29 of the specification as follows:

Table 1-1

	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7	Ex. 8	Ex. 9	Ex. 10
Aid (SrCO <sub>3</sub> ) (mass %)	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pore former (starch) (mass %)	10	10	0	10	10	10	30	40	0	10
Before-nitriding firing of formed body	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firing conditions of formed body	Pressure 1.3 Pa	[[1.3]] 1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa	Normal	1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa
Atmosphere	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar (oxygen partial pressure: 10 Pa)	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar
Temp.	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C
Time	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr
Pressure	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Atmosphere	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>
Temp. and time	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr
Before-nitriding firing and during-nitriding firing (temp. of atmosphere change)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Same firing (1400°C)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)

Please amend Table 1-2 on page 30 of the specification as follows:

Table 1-2

	Ex. 11	Ex. 12	Ex. 13	Ex. 14
Aid (SrCO <sub>3</sub> ) (mass %)	1	3	1	1
Pore former (starch) (mass %)	30	10	10	10
Before-nitriding firing of formed body	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firing conditions of formed body	1.3 Pa	[[1.3]] 1.3 Pa	Normal	Normal
Atmosphere	Ar	Ar	Ar (oxygen partial pressure: 10 Pa)	Ar (oxygen partial pressure: 10 Pa)
Temp.	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C
Time	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr
Pressure	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Atmosphere	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> containing 5 vol. % of hydrogen	N <sub>2</sub> containing 5 vol. % of hydrogen
Temp. and time	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1200°C & 12 hr	1450°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr
Before-nitriding firing and during-nitriding firing (temp. of atmosphere change)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Same firing (1450°C)